THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The committee constituted by the Government have adopted the groupings of refineries under the following broad categories and recommended for computation of rates based on these groupings :—

(i) Refineries commissioned after 1-4-1998 i.e. the date of introduction of Refinery Gate Prices linked to import parity prices for refineries.

(ii) Refineries commissioned prior to 1-4-1998, which are further sub divided into two groups, namely, refineries where written down value (WDV) is likely to be 70% or more or investment and the other where WDV is likely to be less than 70% of investment.

(c) No rates have been finalised as yet.

Failures in Panipat Oil Refinery

†3022. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether production has come to a standstill many times so far due to obstructions in the Panipat Oil Refinery?

(b) if so, for how many times, the production has come to a standstill in the refinery till March 2000;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have conducted an enquiry into the working of this refinery; and

(d) if so, what is the report of the enquiry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) : (a) and (b) Production at Panipat Oil Refinery has witnessed 16 interruptions during the period upto March, 2000 resulting in stoppage of production for more than one day.

(c) No, Sir. However, Government had constituted an Enquiry Committee in investigate into the causes of fire which occurred on 7th May, 1999 at the Hydrocracker unit of the refinery.

(d) Does not arise.

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.